

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13623 01 OF 02 271622Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /095 W

----- 017606

R 271612Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4967

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR 1976 TUC CONGRESS

SUMMARY: THE AGENDA FOR THE 1976 TUC CONGRESS, WHICH OPENS SEPTEMBER 6, REFLECTS TRADE UNION CONCERN OVER THE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO UNEMPLOYMENT, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND INCOMES POLICY. RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY SOME OF THE LARGEST UNIONS SHOW A MARKED DISQUIET ABOUT THE RISING NUMBER OF JOBLESS AND THE IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING CUTS. ALSO THEY SHOW A KEEN DESIRE TO MOVE BACK TOWARD FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AFTER THE SECOND PHASE OF THE VOLUNTARY PAY RESTRAINT POLICY UNDER THE SOCIAL CONTRACT EXPIRES AT THE END OF JULY 1977. IN PARTICULAR. THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 13623 01 OF 02 271622Z

(TGWU), WHOSE GENERAL SECRETARY JACK JONES WAS A KEY

FIGURE IN DRAWING UP BOTH THE PRESENT WAGE RESTRAINT POLICY AND ITS PREDECESSOR AND IN KEEPING THE TUC-GOVERNMENT SOCIAL CONTRACT ALIVE, IS ARGUING FOR A "PLANNED RETURN TO FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING." END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE MAJOR ECONOMIC DEBATE AT THE TUC CONGRESS AT BRIGHTON NEXT MONTH THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL, IN ITS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, WILL BE ASKING UNIONS TO SUPPORT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND ENDORSE THE SECOND PHASE OF VOLUNTARY PAY RESTRAINT WHICH LIMITS INCREASES TO BETWEEN 2.50 AND 4 A WEEK. A MOTION TABLED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF CINEMATOGRAPH, TELEVISION AND ALLIED WORKERS (ACTT) AND SUPPORTED BY BRITISH ACTORS' EQUITY AND THE FURNITURE, TIMBER AND ALLIED TRADES UNION, SEEKS TO REJECT THE SECOND STAGE, BUT THE CONGRESS APPEARS SET TO FOLLOW THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL ONE-DAY TUC CONGRESS IN JUNE AND GIVE FORMAL SUPPORT TO THE POLICY.

2. ATTENTION IN THE ECONOMIC DEBATE MAY WELL FOCUS ON TUC PAY POLICY ONCE THE SECOND STAGE OF WAGE RESTRAINT HAS EXPIRED. THE TGWU, BRITAIN'S LARGEST UNION WITH 1.86 MILLION MEMBERS. HAS TABLED AN AMENDMENT TO A RESOLUTION ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY THE UNION OF SHOP DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED WORKERS (USDW) WHICH ARGUES THAT ANY SUCCESSOR TO THE PRESENT PAY POLICY SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO A PLANNED RETURN TO FREE COLLECTIVE WAGE BARGAINING AND SHOULD GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR THE LOWER PAID AND SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE REWARD OF SKILL AND EFFORT. ALSO, THAT FLAT-RATE WAGE INCREASES PAID UNDER THE PAY POLICY SHOULD BE INCORPORATED GRADUALLY INTO BASIC RATES SO THAT THEY COUNT TOWARDS OVERTIME AND SHIFT BONUSES. TO USDW'S CALL FOR THE EXPANSION OF INCENTIVE AND GENUINE PRODUCTIVITY SCHEMES, THE TGWU HAS ADDED PAYMENT-BY-RESULT OR PIECEWORK SYSTEMS AND THE TUC'S OWN MINIMUM WAGES POLICIES AS OTHER DESIRABLE ELEMENTS OF FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

3. WHEREAS USDW "REQUESTS" THAT A RETURN TO FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SHOULD BEGIN IN 1977, THE TGWU AMENDMENT "SUPPORTS THE VIEW" THAT IT SHOULD. HOWEVER, THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 13623 01 OF 02 271622Z

TGWU BACKS UP THE SHOPWORKERS' WARNING THAT THE RETURN TO FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MUST BE PLANNED AND NOT LEAD TO A "WAGES FREE-FOR-ALL."

4. CONCERN FOR THE LOWER PAID IS ALSO EXPRESSED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS WHICH HAS SUBMITTED AN AMENDMENT SUGGESTING THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO ELIMINATING WHAT THE UNION

CALLS "THE UNFAIR DIFFERENTIAL" WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN
LOW-PAY INDUSTRIES LIKE FARMING AND THE AVERAGE INCOME
RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY. THIS AMENDMENT IS
DESIGNED TO QUALIFY A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE
NATIONAL UNION OF BANK EMPLOYEES WHICH CALLS FOR THE
EFFECT OF PAY POLICIES ON WAGE DIFFERENTIALS TO BE
EXAMINED, AND FOR WAGE DIFFERENTIALS TO BE "MAINTAINED
AND IF NECESSARY EXTENDED."

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13623 02 OF 02 271633Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /095 W

----- 017817

R 271612Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13623

5. THE AGENDA FOR THE CONGRESS ALSO REFLECTS GROWING
TRADE UNION ANXIETY OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED PUBLIC

EXPENDITURE CUTS. THE FIERCEST ATTACK ON THE CUTS COMES FROM THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (NALGO), ONE OF THE UNIONS WHOSE MEMBERS WILL BE HARDEST HIT BY THE PROPOSALS. NALGO URGES THE TUC TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT TO SUBSTITUTE IMPORT CONTROLS FOR SPENDING CUTS. TO TIGHTEN EXCHANGE CONTROL REGULATIONS TO PREVENT THE OUTFLOW OF CAPITAL, AND TO BOOST CONSUMER DEMAND IN ORDER TO CUT UNEMPLOYMENT. ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS A NALGO MOTION WHICH SEEKS TUC INVOLVEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN A NEW SYSTEM OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 13623 02 OF 02 271633Z

PLANNING. THAT, NALGO ADDS, IS "THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT THE UK'S LONG-TERM PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT."

6. CONCERN THAT BELOW-COST GOODS ARE BEING "DUMPED" IN BRITAIN FROM OVERSEAS, THUS JEOPARDIZING JOB PROSPECTS FOR THEIR MEMBERS, IS EXPRESSED IN A MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL STAFFS (ASTMS). ASTMS CALLS FOR TRADE UNIONS TO BE ALLOWED TO MAKE FORMAL COMPLAINTS TO THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY SUSPECT DUMPING.

7. ANOTHER SUBJECT FOR DEBATE AT THE CONGRESS IS THAT OF INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY. SOME UNIONS ARE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE TUC PROPOSALS FOR FIFTY PERCENT WORKER REPRESENTATION ON COMPANY BOARDS WHICH ARE EMBODIED IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BULLOCK COMMITTEE WHICH IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE EXTENSION OF WORKER PARTICIPATION IN

-
INDUSTRY. THE AGENDA CONTAINS A MOTION FROM THE ELECTRICITY WORKERS' UNION (EPTU) CONDEMNING THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CLAIMING THAT ONLY THROUGH "AN EFFECTIVE AND INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT" CAN WORKERS' INTERESTS BE PROTECTED. BUT, THE GENERAL AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS' UNION (GMWU), WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN OPPOSED TO THE TUC APPROACH ON INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, HAS PUT DOWN AN AMENDMENT WHICH SEEKS TO HEAD OFF THE ATTACK BY THE EPTU ON THE TUC LINE.

ARMSTRONG

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, UNEMPLOYMENT, WAGES, INFLATION, LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON13623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760327-0513
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760813/aaaaakpx.tel
Line Count: 214
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: harterdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; RELEASED <11 JAN 2005 by harterdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by harterdg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGENDA FOR 1976 TUC CONGRESS SUMMARY: THE AGENDA FOR THE 1976 TUC CONGRESS, WHICH OPENS SEPTEMBER 6, REFLECTS TRADE UNION CONCERN OV
TAGS: ELAB, OCON, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006